

CIRCULAR LETTER No. 10,
OF THE
VERY REVEREND SUPERIOR-GENERAL
OF THE
Congregation of the Holy Cross.

NOTRE DAME, May 23, 1870.

Reverend Fathers and dear Brothers in Jesus Christ :

While I write these lines, the bell announces to the Community that another dear soul has left our ranks and gone to the bosom of our Heavenly Father. Brother Peter of Alcantara is the one who now calls upon us for the assistance he may need, and which we sweetly bound ourselves to offer each other in turn as Divine Providence may summon us to rest from our labors. He passed to his eternity a few moments ago, strengthened by the precious helps of the Holy Church. Sweet indeed, and most consoling, must be to a dying Religious, the assurance that no sooner shall he have breathed his last, hundreds of fervent friends will fall on their knees and approach the Holy Table to entreat the Divine Master to grant His faithful servant the reward He has promised to those who for His sake have left father and mother, and brothers and sisters, and lands and all, and denied themselves, to take up His Cross and follow Him!

Such was literally the case with the good Brother whose cold remains are now awaiting the last sacred rites of Religion. Although scarcely known during his long career in the Community, but for his unswerving fidelity and devotedness, he now carries with him to the tomb the universal regrets of all our Religious, none of whom, I may confidently say, he ever disedified by a wilful transgression of his vows. His path was in the humblest walks; he never commanded nor aspired to command anyone; he had come to sanctify himself in obedience; he brings to God's judgment no responsibilities but that of his own deeds. Happy soul! he will answer but for himself.

In vain do I look over his long, simple, innocent and useful association with us, for a single deliberate cause of displeasure to me or to any of his Superiors. I find none. What a rich eulogy for a departed soul! Surely such a one will find mercy at the bar of the Supreme Judge. While we pray for him let us profit by such an example.

E. SORIN, *Superior-General.*